

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 IO-13 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 SIL-01
LAB-04 ARA-10 /125 W

-----127824 121223Z /11

O R 121120Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9270

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 COLOMBO 0222

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING PASS THORNTON

NSC FOR DR. BRESZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PARM, ELAB, EAID, SF, CE, XO, XF

SUBJ: MEETINGS T.P. THORNTON (NSC STAFF) WITH SRI LANKA
FOREIGN MININSTER HAMEED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: HAMEED RAISED WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS IN
CONVERSATIONS WITH THORNTON. WHILE NO NEW SRI LANKA POSITIONS
EMERGED, HAMEED DISPLAYED GREATER SELF-CONFIDENCE THAN HERE-
TOFORE IN HIS NEW FOREIGN MININSTER ROLE, AND ON BEHALF OF
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OFFERED CONGRATULATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR
USG INITIATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. END
SUMMARY.

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2. HAMEED INVITED THORNTON AND CHARGE TO DINNER EVENING 11
JANUARY, MET WITH THEM FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS MORNING OF
11 JANUARY, AND CALLED THEM BACK FOR FINAL HALF HOUR MEETING
AFTERNOON 12 JANUARY. HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW.

3. SAUDIA ARABIA DOLLAR EXCHANGE
HAMEED ASKED IF SUBJECT OF SAUDI "DOLLAR SURPLUS" HAD BEEN

DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO SAUDIA ARABIA. SRI LANKA WAS INTERESTED IN SAUDI AID AND INVESTMENT.

4. THORNTON REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE IF SUBJECT WAS ON RIYADH AGENDA; HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS AFTER RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AND SEND ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ON THIS SUBJECT BACK THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

5. SOUTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST
HAMEED SAID THAT AS CHAIRMAN, SRI LANKA WISHED TO EXPRESS NAM THANKS TO THE US FOR ITS ACTIVITIES IN MOVING SOUTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS CLOSER TO SOLUTION. HAMEED COULD APPRECIATE THAT THIS CLAIMED MUCH OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TIME AND ENERGY AND THIS WAS NOTED WITH GRATITUDE BY MEMBERS OF THE NAM. HAMEED SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEWS AS TO WHAT THE NAM MIGHT DO IN SUPPORT OF THESE DEEPLY APPRECIATED US INITIATIVES.

6. THORNTON REPLIED THAT THE MINISTER'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS AND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF NAM WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT, AND HIS RESPONSE COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

7. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
ON BEHALF OF NAM, HAMEED ASKED IF USG WOULD ACCEPT PLO AS
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OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

8. THORNTON REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS BUT ASSUMED THAT WE STILL STOOD BY OUR POSITION THAT WE WOULD DEAL WITH THE PLO IF IT ACCEPTED UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IT IS NOT OUR RIGHT, HOWEVER, TO DESIGNATE WHO THE "OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE. OBVIOUSLY THE PLO, ONCE IT ACCEPTS THE UN RESOLUTIONS, SHOULD BE AN ELEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THORNTON SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH THE MFA IF THERE WERE ANY FURTHER REFINEMENTS TO THIS POSITION.

9. NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY
TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NEW SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT TO REEXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING PARTY TO THE NPT, HAMEED RESPONDED NON-COMITTALLY THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING THEY WOULD LOOK INTO.

10. UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT
HAMEED SAID NAM WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SPECIAL SESSION AS MEANS OF LESSENING WORLD ARMS RACE, AN AREA WHERE USG HAS SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

11. THORNTON SAID USG AGREED, AND BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED ONGOING ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS WITH SOVIETS, AND PRESIDENT'S MAYPOLICY STATEMENT IN REGARD TO ARMS TRANSFERS. THORNTON SAID GSL COULD MAKE REAL CONTRIBUTION ON THIS SUBJECT BY TAKING LEAD IN NAM TO MOVE ARMS CUSTOMERS (ALONG WITH SUPPLIERS) TO EXERCISE SELF-RESTRAINT. SRI LANKA IS IN EXCELLENT POSITION TO UNDERTAKE THIS DUE TO ITS OWN EXEMPLARY MODEST INVESTMENT IN ARMED FORCES. HAMEED DID NOT RESPOND.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 COLOMBO 0222

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 14, 20 AND 21)

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING PASS THORNTON

NSC FOR DR. BRESZINSKI

12. INDIAN OCEAN
HAMEED SAID THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST THE INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GSL BY THE EMBASSY ON THE SOVIET-AMERICAN INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. GSL CONTINUED TO OPPOSE "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE" IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE SAID THAT THE NEW SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THIS QUESTION HAS A NUANCE OF DIFFERENCE FROM MME. BANDARANAIKE'S. THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN INSURING THAT THERE WAS NOT A GREAT POWER ARMS RACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA, BUT

WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT THE LITTORAL STATES SIMILARLY EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR NAVAL ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES. SRI LANKA SAW NO ADVANTAGE TO ITSELF SHOULD
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THE GREAT POWERS DEPART LEAVING BEHIND A POWER VACUUM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHICH WOULD BE FILLED BY LARGE LITTORALS.

13. THORNTON REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SHIFT IN GSL POLICY. THE USG ALSO OPPOSED SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

14. ILO

AGAIN SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF NAM, HAMEED EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT US WOULD RETURN TO THE ILO.

15. THORNTON RESPONDED THAT THE INTENT OF US NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL AND DEPARTURE WAS TO INDUCE ILO MEMBERS TO HAVE THE ORGANIZATION CEASE ACTIVITIES INCONSISTENT WITH ITS CHARTER. OUR ABSENCE FROM THE ILO WAS A CONTINUATION OF OUR INTENT TO MOVE THE ILO IN THIS DIRECTION. WE HOPED OUR POLICY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, ENABLING US TO RETURN TO THE ILO. SRI LANKA'S SUPPORT IN THE NAM WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN REALIZING USG INTENT TO AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN ILO.

16. BILATERAL AID

HAMEED REVIEWED SRI LANKA'S RECORD OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT AND EMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS OUTSTANDING IN THIS PART OF ASIA. HE BELIEVED THAT SRI LANKA CONTINUED TO BE WORTHY RECIPIENT OF USG ASSISTANCE, AND DESCRIBED ACCELERATED MAHAWELI GANGA IRRIGATION PROJECT.

17. THORNTON REPLIED THAT USG WAS INTERESTED AND SYMPATHETIC TOWARD SRI LANKA DEVELOPMENT PLANS. THORNTON NOTED THAT CURRENT AID LEGISLATION PLACES HIGHER PRIORITY ON DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO RURAL POOR AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, THAN TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN LARGE PROJECTS SUCH AS DAMS. HOWEVER, LATTER WAS BY NO MEANS EXCLUDED AND USG HOPED TO CONTINUE TO DO ITS
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PART. THORNTON NOTED USG MUST SEEK EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BWEEN MULTINATIONAL LENDING ORGANIZATIONS, AND BILATERAL REQUESTS FROM MANY FRIENDS.

18. PANAMA CANEL

HAMEED SAID SRI LANKA UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANT STEP WHICH

PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TAKEN WITH PANAMA IN REGARD TO CANAL AND APPLAUDED THIS DECISION "TO DO THE RIGHT THING."

19. THORNTON RESPONDED THAT IT WAS HEARTENING TO USG TO KNOW THAT ITS COMMITMENT TO SOLVE THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM, WHICH HAS AROUSED THE CONCERNS OF MANY AMERICANS, WAS UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORTED BY OUR FRIENDS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

20. SOVIET ROVING AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH IN FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTORS, WE WERE TOLD THAT MENDELEVICH WOULD ARRIVE IN COLOMBO IN TWO WEEKS TO BRIEF GSL ON SOVIET-U.S. INDIAN OCEAN TALKS.

21. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM TALKS LIKELY TO PLACE LIMITS ON SUBMARINE PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, THORNTON SAID THAT THIS WAS DIFFICULT AREA TO FORESEE, SINCE SUBMARINES WERE HARD TO MONITOR. AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES ONLY IF VERIFICATION WAS POSSIBLE BY NATIONAL MEANS. MFA OFFICIALS INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF HIS EXPLANATION.

22. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY IF IT WANTS ANY FOLLOW-UP ON QUESTION OF SAUDI AID (PARA 4) OR US POSITIONS ON MIDDLE EAST (PARAS 6 AND 8); ALSO IF THERE IS ANY USEFUL OR MORE SPECIFIC RESPONSE WE CAN MAKE ON HAMEED'S OFFER TO HELP WITH THE ILO PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB00222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780018-0325
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780173/aaaacjq.tel
Line Count: 250
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12398be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3789534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETINGS T.P. THORNTON (NSC STAFF) WITH SRI LANKA FOREIGN MININSTER HAMEED
TAGS: PORG, PARM, ELAB, EAID, SF, CE, XO, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12398be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014